REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in this application. No claim amendments have been made. In view of the following comments, allowance of all the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for meeting with Applicant's representatives for the personal interview conducted on December 3, 2003.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Regarding the rejection of claims 9, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Stern et al. (USPN 5,835,919 – filed 05/1996), Applicant notes that this rejection was indicated to be withdrawn (see numbered paragraph 2 on page 2 of the September 24, 2003 Office Action). During the personal interview, the Examiner confirmed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is withdrawn and was erroneously carried over from the previous office action.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 5-10, and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stern et al., as applied to claims 9, 13, and 15[1] in view of Fleming et al. (USPN 5,664,210 - issued 09/1997). Claims 3-4, 11-12, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stern and Fleming, and further in view of Greyson. (USPN 5,666,551 -- issued on 09/1997). Applicant respectfully traverse these rejections as follows.

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[1] See comments regarding the rejection under 35 USC §102

Independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 17 essentially recite the feature of accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the continuous target information region to form at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions, among other things. The examiner acknowledges that "Stern does not explicitly disclose, 'deselect [sic] at least one port [sic] of the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions'" (see page 3 numbered paragraph 8 of the September 24, 2003 Office Action) and relies on Fleming et al. for disclosing this feature. In particular, the Examiner cites column 2, lines 22-29[2] of Fleming for disclosing this feature (see page 3 numbered paragraph 8 of the September 24, 2003 Office Action).

The cited portion of Fleming, however, discloses a method of selecting multiple portions of text within a document and having the option of deselecting all selections or deselecting all selections other that the selection just made (see Fleming, column 2, lines 8-29). However, Stern et al. and Fleming et al., both alone and in combination, fail to teach or suggest accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the continuous target information region to form at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions.

Regarding dependent claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 19, and 20, the Examiner further acknowledges that "Stern and Fleming do not explicitly disclose 'first begin select delimiter located left of the target information and a first end select delimiter located right of the continuous target information region,'" (see page 8 numbered paragraph 9

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[2] Although the Examiner cites Figure 2C, it was agreed upon during the interview that this reference was in error.

of the September 24, 2003 Office Action) and relies on Greyson et al. for disclosing this feature. Assuming, *arguendo*, that Greyson et al. discloses this feature, Greyson et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of Stern et al. and Fleming, as described above.

In particular, Greyson et al. discloses a method of selecting text on a computer display screen for manipulating by cutting or copying (see Greyson et al., the Abstract). Greyson et al. discloses selecting a block of text and allowing users to view the block of text as it is moved anywhere in the display screen (see Greyson et al., column 6, lines 52-65). Greyson et al. does not disclose accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the *continuous target information region* forming at least two *associated noncontiguous* target information regions. Thus, neither Stern et al., Fleming et al., nor Greyson et al., taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the *continuous target information region* forming at least two *associated noncontiguous* target information regions.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the features recited in independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 17. Thus, independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 17 are believed to be allowable and claims 2-8, 10-15, and 18-20 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.
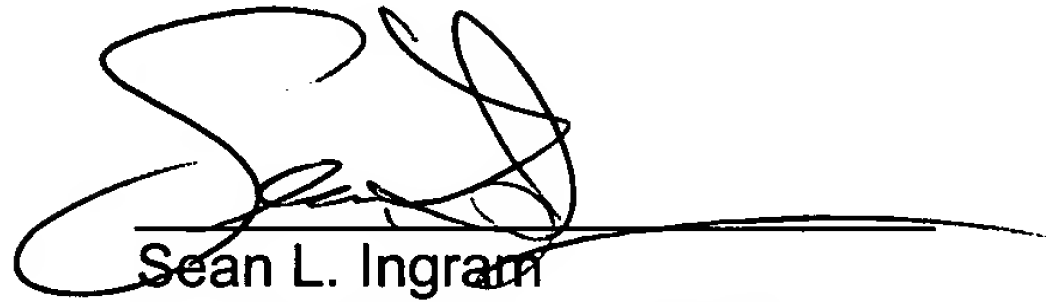
Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite

prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: December 9, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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